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237:21

Orford June 25th 1778.

Hon.d Sir,

The Convention of Committees from the several towns mentioned in the enclosed copies take this opportunity to transmit to you as President of the Council of the State of New Hampshire a resolve of the assembly of the State of Vermont relative to a union of said towns &c. with them; by which you will be avail'd of the political situation of these united towns & others on the grants who may comply with said resolve. We hope that notwithstanding an entire seperation has now taken place between your State and those towns, an amicable settlement may be come into at a proper time between the State of New Hampshire and those towns on the grants that unite with the State of Vermont relative to all Civil and Military affairs transacted in connection with the State of New Hampshire since the commencement of the present war to the time of the union, so that amity and friendship may subsist and continue between the two States.

I am Sir, In behalf of the said Convention
With Respect Your most obedient
Humble Servant
Nehemiah Eastabrook Chairman

To the Hon'ble M. Weare Esq.
President of the Council of
N. Hampshire

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State of Vermont } In the General Assembly June 11th A.D. 1778
Bennington ss } On the upresentation of a Committee from the New Hampshire Grants (so called) east of Connecticut river, that the said grants are not connected with any State with respect to their internal police, and that sixteen Towns in the northwestern part of said grants have assented to a union with this State agreable to articles mutually proposed by the assembly and a Committee from the grants east of said river, as by said Articles on file more fully may appear. Therefore, Voted & Resolved that the sixteen towns above refered to, viz. Cornish, Lebanon, Enfield, Dresden, Canaan, Cardigan, Lyme, Orford, Piermont, Haverhill, Bath, Lyman, Gunthwaite, Apthorp, Landaff & Morristown be and hereby are received into union with this State, and are entitled to all the privileges and immunities vested in any Town within this State.

Also Voted and Resolved, that any Town on the Grants east of Connecticut River, contiguous to any of the towns above mentioned, and which has not yet assented to a union with this State, shall be received, on their exhibiting to the Assembly a certificate of a Vote of a major part of the Inhabitants of such town in favour thereof; or on their appointment by a major part of the Inhabitants of such town of a Member to represent them in the assembly of this State; and that they shall thereby become entitled to all the Rights appertaining to any town within this State agreable to the

the Rules prescribed in the Constitution

Attest

Benj.a Baldwin Junr. Clerk

A true copy of Record, compared

Pr

Thos. Chandler Junr. Secry.

(copy)

Letter
From Meshech Weare to the New Hampshire
Delegates in Congress, dated 19 Aug. 1778

(A Ms. copy of this letter has been found and follows)

Letter
From Meshech Weare to Thomas Chittenden
dated, 22 August, 1778.

These Letters may be found in Sladds Collection
of Vermont State Papers. pp. 90. 91. 93.

237:24

Exeter Augt 19th 1778.

Sir,

By order of the Council & Assembly of this State I am to inform you that the pretended State of Vermont not contented with the limits of the New Hampshire Grants (so called) on the west side of Connecticut River, have extended their pretended jurisdiction over the river and taken into union, (as they phrase it) sixteen Towns on the east side of Connecticut River, part of this State, and who can have no more pretence for their defection than any other towns in the State; the circumstances of which you are well acquainted with — & great pains is, and to be made other towns to follow their example.

Enclosed I send you a copy of a Letter from Mr. Eastabrook who stiles himself Chairman of the Convention of Committes from several Towns &c also the copy of a Resolve of s^d nominal State of Vermont, on which you will mark your own comments. By the best information I have from that County about one, nearly one half third of the people in the defective Towns are averse to the procedings of the majority who, threaten to confiscate their Estates if they dont join with them, and I am very much afraid the affair will end in the shedding of blood. Justices of the Peace have been appointed & sworn into office in those Towns under the pretended Authority of s^d Vermont, and persons sent to represent them there. I must not omit to let you know that Col^o Bedel who has rec^d great sums from Congress or their Generals under pretence of payg men for

service

service they never did, (as I am informed) by the influence of
s.d Money has occasioned a great share of the disorders
in those Towns — I am directed to desire you on
receipt of this, to advise with some of the Members of
Congress on this affair & proceed as you may judge exp-
edient after advising as afores.d to endeavour to obtain the
aid of Congress, if you think they can with propriety
take up the matter; Indeed unless Congress interpose
(whose admonition only I believe will be obeyed) I know
not what consequences will follow, very probable the
Sword will decide it, as the Minority in those towns
are claiming protection from this State, and they them-
selves bound by every tie to afford it. And you know
every condescending method that could be invented, has
been offered them in the beginning of the schism, and
was rejected. I doubt not of your application, and
efforts in this matter, which if effectual will exceeding-
ly serve the State & probably prevent numberless calam
ities to the People

Hon.ble Josiah Bartlett & John Wentworth Esqrs

(copy of a Letter to the Delegates, Josiah Bartlett
& Wm. Wilpple in Congress, dat. Vermont Aug. 19. 1778.

Windsor October 21st 1778.

Assembly met according to adjournment, the following questions were proposd, and answeredas herein stated .. viz:

Question 1st Whether the Counties in this State shall remain as they were established by this Assembly, at their session in March last?

Yeas 35. Nays 26.

Question 2nd Whether the Towns east of the River included in the union with this State, shall be included in the County of Cumberland?

Yeas 28. Nays 33.

Question 3d Whether the Towns on the east side of Connecticut River, who are included by union within this State shall be erected into a distinct County by themselves

Yeas 28. Nays 33.

State of Vermont p Windsor October 22nd 1778.

We whose names are underwritten, Members of the Council and General Assembly of said State, beg leave to lay before the Assembly the following as our Protest and Declaration against the proceedings of on Wednesday the twenty first instant, in passing the three following Votes, or Resolutions. viz:

1st That the Counties in this State shall remain as they were established by the Assembly of this State in March last—

2nd The Towns on the east side of the River included in the union with this State, shall not be included in the County of Cumberland

3d That the Towns on the east side of the River shall not be erected into a distinct County by themselves (as by the said Votes on the Journals of the House may appear) which votes are illegal, and in direct violation of the Constitution of the State, and the solemn engagements, and publick faith pledged by the Resolutions of said Assembly, as by the following observations plainly appears, viz.

1st That as the Towns on the east side of said River were never annexed to any County in said State, they are consequently by said votes entirely excluded the Liberties, Privileges, Protection, Laws and Jurisdiction of said State, all which were granted them by the State, by an Act or Resolve of Assembly passed at Bennington in June last, containing the Union and Confederation of the State, and said Towns, by which Act or

or Resolve of the Assembly, every Town included in the union received by a grant from the then State of Vermont, all the right, powers and privileges of any other town in said State, which they cannot be deprived of without their consent, as it is a maxim that the Grantor or Grantees cannot resume their grant without the surrender of the grantee or grantees.

2nd That said votes are in direct opposition to a solemn Resolution of the Assembly, Passed the 20th instant, establishing the Report of the Committee of both Houses, in which Report the Assembly have solemnly covenanted to defend the whole of the State entire as it then was, including said Towns.

3d That by the Constitution of the State, especially the sixth Article in the bill of Rights, Government is instituted, or declared to be a right of every part of the community, and not a part only, — said votes are therefore a violation of the Constitution.

4 That so far as the Assembly have power, they have by said votes totally distroyed the Constitution of the State, by depriving those towns included in the union of the exercise of Jurisdiction, Power & Privilege granted them, and the confederation by which the Towns in the State are combined and held togather as one Body — and as no political body can exercise a partial jurisdiction by virtue of a confederation or Agreement for the people to exercise government over the whole — it is therefore either

void or destroys both the Confederation — We do therefore hereby publicly declare and make known that we cannot consistent with our Oaths, and engagements to this State / so long as said votes stand and continue in force) exercise any office or place either Legislative, Executive or Judicial in this State, but look upon ourselves as being thereby discharged from any and every former Confederation and Association with this State,

Johan Ambrose	Joseph March D. G.
Ruben Foster	Peter Alcot aft
John Wheatly	Thos Murdock aft
John Nutting	Elisha Payne
Nehemiah Easterbrook	Israel Morey
Abner Chandler	James Bailey
Benjamin Baldwin	John Young
Francis Smith	Joseph Heath
Elijah Alvord	Abel Curtis
Joseph Parkhurst	Aly der Henry
Benjamin Spaulding	Bela Turner
	Jona Freman
	David Woodward
	Benja Woodward
	Stephen Gilton
	Thos Baldwin

State of Vermont } Windsor 23d Oct 1778.

Sir, I am directed by the Council and Assembly now sitting, to acquaint your honor that they have had under consideration the subject of your Letter to me dated the 22d day of August last, Whereupon they have Resolved, that no additional exercise of Jurisdictional Authority be had (by this State) east of Connecticut River for the time being; on which Resolution the Members who appeared to represent those sixteen towns east of the said River, send to be united to this State, have entered their discent to such Resolution on the minutes of the House, and withdrawn, under which circumstances they can have no pretentions to any claim of Protection from this State, who are so far from a disposition to interfere on the rights of New Hampshire as to gratfully acknowledge their generous, and timely assistance at the important Battle of Bennington, by which means the Infant State was preserved

The Assembly of this State have appointed his Hon: Ira Allen Esq. to wait on your Honour & Council with this express who will doubtless be able to give any further satisfaction in the premises.

I am Sir, with due Respect
your Most obed. Hum. Servant
Thos Chittenden

Hon'ble Meshech Weare Esq.

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237:30

State of New Hampshire } Exeter Novr. 5.th 1778.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 23.d Ult.o was delivered me by Mr. Allen, and hath been laid before the Gen.l Assembly of this State, who have directed me to observe that, the Resolution of the representatives of your people, which you mention, viz.: "That no additional exercise of jurisdictional Authority be had (by this State) east of Connecticut River for the time being." is not an explicit determination to break of all ~~connexion~~ connection as a distinct political Body with the Town east of Connecticut River, but is so ambigously expressed, as to shew nothing of your future intentions on the subject.

However as you refer us to Mr Allen for further satisfaction in the premises" That Gentleman has with openness & candor informed us that some particular circumstances in your affairs, had hindered a more particular and explicit Declaration on the subject; yet assured us that, he had no doubt but a considerable Majority of your People, would totally reject any further connection with the people east of Connecticut River as a Political Body.

On which state of the matter we shall depend as that only can hinder difficulties arising between the State of New Hampshire and the People settled on the New Hampshire Grants (so called) west of Connecticut River

Hon.ble Thomas Chittenden

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237:31

State of Vermont } Windsor 23? October 1778.

Sir,

In conformity to my engagement to Col. Bartlett, one of the members of Congress from New Hampshire, I am induced to write to your Honor, respecting a number of Towns to the eastward of Connecticut River which inadvertently by influence of designing men, have lately been brought into union with the State of Vermont, which in my opinion is now entirely dissolved, I engaged Col. Bartlett, to use my influence at this Assembly for that purpose, — The Governors Letter to your Honour, together with what Squire Allen, the bearer will communicate, will set this matter in its true light.

The union I ever viewed to be incompatible with the right of New Hampshire, and have punctually discharged my obligation to Col. Bartlett, for its dissolution, and that worthy Gentleman on his part assured me, that he had no directions from the government of New Hampshire, to extend their Claim to the westward of Connecticut River, to interfere with the State of Vermont, and I hope that the Government of New Hampshire will excuse the imbecility of Vermont, in the matter of Union, I apprehend Col. Payne had a principal influence in it, and it was with dificulty that this Assembly got rid of ~~them~~ him

I am appointed by this Assembly to act as Agent for the State of Vermont at Congress, where I shall shortly repair, and depend that New Hampshire

accew to the Independency of the State of
Vermont, as the late obstacles are honourably removed.

I am with due Respect
Sir, your very Humble Sert.
Ethan Allen

Honble Meshech Weare Esqr.

237:32

State of New-Hampshire } Exeter Novm^r 5^th 1778.

Sir,

I received yours of the 23^d ult^o. by Ira Allen Esq^r and at the same time a Letter from Thomas Chittenden Esq^r. purporting a Resolution of the State of Vermont concerning their late Connection with with some Towns, part of the State of N^w New Hampshire — in the following words " That no additional exercise of Jurisdictional Authority be had (by this State) east of Connecticut River for the time being" — which by no means expresses their future designs or intentions in the matter.

Nevertheless as you have been so full & explicit in your own sentiments I trust the body of your people will be of the same opinion as I am shure every sensible person will, notwithstanding the blind designs of some uneasy and never to be contented persons whose views must certainly be more detrimental to you than to New Hampshire

Whatever may be determined by Congress relative to the acknowledgement of your Independency will be fully ~~acknowledged~~ acquiesced in by New Hampshire

Col^o Ethan Allen

(v. vote of Court of 6. Nov. 1778)

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Windsor on the New Hampshire Grants
October 23 A.D. 1778.

Sir,

May it please your Excellency

The Assembly of the State of Vermont had a report laid before them on the 13th instant signed by Ethan Allen Esq. purporting that Congress had received sundry matters of information or complaint relative to the proceedings of the New Hampshire Grants, and which they had determined to take into consideration; but at his solicitations were deferred, till opportunity might be had to communicate the intelligence to the people on those Grants, respecting which we beg leave in justice to our cause to remark that Col. Allen nor any other person (that we know of) has as yet been authorised by the people on these grants to appear in their behalf at Congress (except those persons who ~~presented~~ preferred a petition which was dismissed last year) & which measure they had omitted from an apprehension that Congress were desireous not to be troubled with the matter at present nor do we by this mean any thing further than to inform them that, on the abovementioned representation, and copies of Letters from the Hon'ble the President of the Council of New Hampshire to their Members of Congress and to Governor Chittenden, the Assembly of Vermont in a committe of the whole agreed on the enclosed out-lines of a plan for settling all matters of controversy with New Hampshire.

We

apprehend we can, and are now in pursuit of measures to make it evident to impartial judges that the New Hempshire Grants on both sides of Connecticut River, are on the same footing, and ought never to be divided. On that principle the committee above mentioned proposed and the assembly agreed to the enclosed plan. as having in their opinion the most effectual tendency to support a Union of the two sides of the River, and lay a foundation for an amicable settlement with the State of New Hampshire so that Congress may not have occasion to interpose in the matter.

Yet an apprehension, arising in the minds of sundry Members of Assembly that such an union (though in its nature reasonable and just) would thorough the influence of exparte representations occasion Congress to come to such resolutions as might prevent the establishment of a State on said grants, has been the occasion of differing sentiments with respect to measures proper in the present juncture, and which have arisen to such a pitch as to prevent a persuit of the proposed plan in the channel pointed out by Assembly, by a protest and withdrawal of near one half the members who compose that body.

The protesting members notwithstanding, desirous that the same plan might be persued formed a voluntary convention who are in persuit of measures whereby the whole of the towns on said Grants may unite in such proposals to New

Hampshire as we flatter ourselves will put an end to all disputes with that State

An apprehension that measures will be attempted to procure an acknowledgement at Congress of a new State covering only that part of the Grants which lie west of Connecticut River (which we conciere will be very disagreable to a majority of the inhabitants on said grants) is the occasion of our transmitting this by Col. Wheelock, whom we have also desired to inform your Excellency or Congress more fully of the matters them the limits of this letter will admit, and request that nothing may be done at Congress which shall prevent the good effects of the measures now taking for an happy settlement with the State of New Hampshire

I am Sir, in behalf of said Convention with great defference and respect

Your Excellencys most obedient
and most humble Servant
signed Joseph Marsh Chairman

His Excellency
Henry Laurrens Esqr.
President of Congress

copy

To the Honorable Council and General Assembly of the State of New Hampshire now sitting at Exeter in said State

Gentlemen, 4 Nov. 78

Persuant to my appointment by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont) to wait on the Honble Meshech Weare Esqr. President of the Council of the State of New Hampshire with a letter from His Excellency Thos. Chittenden Esqr. and as in the s? Letter refference was had to me for further particulars relative to the union of sixteen towns on the east side of Connecticut River with the State of Vermont and as it has been the desire of the Hon'ble the General Assembly that I would give them a short state of facts relative to the said union &c. I therefore beg leave to state the following as a short and concise state of the matter viz:

The first movement to form the State of Vermont was from the West side of the Green Mountains in consequence of which several towns committees was sent to the then Counties of Cumberland and Gloucester to see if the people there would unite with the people on the west side of the Mountain to make one Body Politick — about two years ago Col. John Wheelock being apprised of that movement went to the town of Norwich where one of s? Committe were and proposed to them for a number of towns on the east side of the River to unite with those towns on the west side of s?

of s^d River, but was answered by said committee that they were not acquainted with the situation of New Hampshire; therefore they should do nothing about it.

Least March after the Governor and Council was declared chosen and the Assembly formed agreable to the Constitution of s^d State, there come in a Committee from the east side of the River s^d to be chosen by a Convention, whereof Mr. Osterbrook was Chairman and moved in behalf of the New Hampshire Grants, east of s^d River (as they were pleased to stile it) for a union with the State of Vermont in consequence of which a Committee was chosen from both Houses to confer with said Committee and make report of their opinion to the House, the Committee after all the Debates thereon reported to the House as their opinion not to connect with said committee in no way or manner whatsoever. The House after mature deliberation voted to accept of said report, which gave such dissatisfaction to several of the Members of the Council and Assembly that lived near Connecticut River that they declared if them people (meaning those on the east side of the River) were to be entirely excluded from connecting with s^d State they would withdraw from the then State of Vermont and connect with them people and form a new State. Then after long and tedious Debates the whole was refered to the people at large and to be brought before the Assembly again at

their next Session in June. Col. Payne and others of that Committee then publickly declared that they had conversed with a number of the leading members of the Assembly of New Hampshire from the Eastern part of the State of Vermont but some members in the western part of s^d State were opposed to it, but gave it as their opinion that New Hampshire, as a State, would ~~not~~ make no difficulty about it; this last plea was carried to the people and under this mistake of the matter a majority of the towns in the State voted for the union, which the General Assembly could do no otherwise then confirm. they being previously instructed so by their Constituents.

The Assembly then proceeded to busniess amongst ~~themselves~~ which then was an order given out for each town in the State that see fit to choose a Justice of the Peace and several temporary Acts were made all to stand until the rising of the next Assembly. Some time in the month of August Governor Chittenden Rec^d a Letter from the Hon'ble Meshech Weare Esq^r President of the Council of New Hampshire shewing the disapprobation of s^d State to the union. Some time in September Col. Ethan Allen was appointed to wait on Congress to see how the Political state of the State of Vermont was viewed by Congress who after the Assembly was formed in October last reported to the House that the Members of Congress was unanimously opposed to the union of the sixteen towns, otherwise they had none of them any objection

to

to the State of Vermont being a ~~member~~ State. (the New York members only excepted) At the Session in October last several members from the east side of the River took their seats in consequence of the union before mentioned. Then the Assembly proceded to busines, but there was such divisions and debates relative to the union that for about thirteen days there was very little busines done at which time three votes were passed which gave rise to a Dissents being brought into the House the next day signed by Twenty seven members of the Council & Assembly (both the votes and the Dissent I have delivered to the Hon'ble Council) The General Assembly then proceded to the busines of the State and revived some old Acts and made some new amongst which they ordered one commission to be made for the Justices of each County and all the names of the Justices in the County of Cumberland to be put in the commission for that County & in like manner the County of Bennington — I was credibly informed by several worthy Members of the Council & Assembly that the second vote above refered to in its original was passed as follows (viz) Whether the Towns east of the River included in the union with this State shall be annexed to the County of Cumberland — Passed in the negative. By several flying reports was informed that after the abovementioned twenty seven ~~persons~~ Members withdrew they formed a Convention, chose a Chairman & Clerk and then proposed to give an invitation to all the Towns on the Grants to join them and form a new State by the name of New Connecticut; they then adjourned their Convention to some time in the next

Week

week to be held at Lebanon there was about eleven towns on the west side of the River joined them in this Convention

Thus Gentlemen I have given a short state of the matter which I do certify upon honour is the truth according to the best of my memory

Ira Allen

Exeter November 4th 1778

To the Inhabitants of the State of Vermont

Gentlemen, 27 Nov. 78

Whereas the General Assembly of this State did appoint me to wait on the Honorable Meshech Weare, Esqr. President of the Council of the State of New Hampshire, with a Letter from his Excellency Thomas Chittenden, Esqr; and another from Col. Ethan Allen, & And whereas several of the Members of the Honorable Council and Assembly of this State, desired me to write to them (on my return from New Hampshire) the State of affairs relative to the Union of Sixteen Towns east of Connecticut River and this State; I therefore beg leave to state the following as a short state of the matter, viz:

When I arrived at Exeter found the General Assembly then sitting delivered said Letters to the President, who after examining the same in Council, sent them to the House for their inspection: the said Letters were again read and largely discoursed on, and a Committee appointed from both Houses to answer the same — I being then present besides having many other conferences with the Members of both Houses, found they were unanimous, for maintaining inviolable their Jurisdiction to the East Banks of Connecticut River, but that they had no disposition to interfere with the State of Vermont in it's first described limits, which will more fully appear by their resolution in the affair of Mr Hovey, and an Extract of Presidents Weare's Letter to Col. Ethan Allen, which are as follows, viz:

State

"State of New Hampshire, "In the House of Repres-
entatives, Nov. 10th, 1778.

"According to the vote of the House this day, the Honorable Council and House being met in the Assembly Chamber, the Honorable Meshech Weare, Esqr. in the Chair, proceeded to take under consideration the Petition of Nathaniel Hovey, preferred to the Honorable Committee of Safety of this State on the 24th of September last, and the further transactions thereon — and upon consideration of the same, came to the following Resolutions and report, that Two Hundred Pounds be granted to the said Hovey, out of the Treasury, by order of the President, for his present necessities, to be by him accounted for; and that the persons named as rioters in his complaint and Petition, together with Nehemiah Eastabrook, of Lebanon, be notified to attend the hearing of said Petition before the General Assembly if sitting, or Committee of Safety of this State in the recess, on the second Thursday of December next, and that the Secretary be directed to issue proper notice to said persons, and that Capt. Samuel Atkinson, of Boscawen, be directed to notify them accordingly, which Report was read and accepted

Sent up for concurrence,

John Dudley, Speaker. Pro. Tem.

A Copy examined by E. Thompson, Sec'ry

As you have been so full and explicit in your sentiments,

I

I trust the Body of your People will be of the same opinion, as I am ~~them~~ sure every sensible person will; ~~be~~ notwithstanding blind designs of some uneasy and never to be contented men, whose views must certainly be more detrimental to you then they possibly can be to New Hampshire. — Whatever may be determined on by Congress relative to the acknowledgement of your Independence will be freely acquiesced in by this State.

I find by enquiring into the situation of the Grants (so called) east of Connecticut River, that the Towns in the County of Cheshire are almost unanimously Represented in the General Assembly of New Hampshire — and that about twelve towns in the County of Grafton are also Represented in the Assembly of New Hampshire — and that in the sixteen Towns in connexion with this State by said Union, there is a large minority in opposition to said Union

Amongst the arguments made use of by New Hampshire to support their claim to Connecticut River are the following, viz.

That by a determination of the Court of Great Britain in establishing Provinces in North America, said Lands were included in the jurisdiction of New Hampshire, and in consequence of that, many Charters for Towns was granted by the Governor of said Province with all the Privileges and Immunities that any other Towns in said Province did enjoy, which they held under the Crown until the Revolution, at which time

time circular letters ~~was~~ was sent to the several Towns thro' that Province, to chuse Members to form a Congress to transact the Political busineſs of the State; at which time several of thoſe Towns now in Union with this State sent Members. About a yeer after a second Congress was chosen, and some of said Towns sent Members. Said Congress then established a plan of Government which was to remain in force until the exigencies of the State would admit of more leisure time to form another, which plan or Constitution said State has ever since and now remain to be governed by. Since the depreciation of Money, an additional pay has been given by the State of New Hampshire to the Militia of said State, in addition to their Continental pay when in such service; which pay has been chearfully received by the Militia of said towns.

Thus Gentlemen I have given you a short state of facts, agreeable to the best information I can get, by which you will observe that the State of New Hampshire are willing that the State of Vermont should be a State in its first discribed limits west of Connecticut River.

I have also to observe, that by several authentick accounts late received from the Honrable Continental Congress, that the Delegates are willing that the State of Vermont should be a State within its first discribed limits, (the Delegates from New York

New York excepted) which fully appears from that Honorable Body's not passing any Resolves against any of the proceedings of the State of Vermont since its first formation, altho' often requested by New York

Having met with several printed papers published by order of those gentlemen that withdrew from the General Assembly of this State, at their Session in October last; but as I did not design this Letter for an answer thereto, shall make but few remarks thereon

In the course of which papers there is a request to all the Towns on the Grants on both sides of the River, whether united with the State of Vermont or not, to send members to form a Convention to consult and agree upon measures whereby we may all be united together, by being and remaining a distinct state, on such foundation that we may be admitted into Confederation with the United States of America, and under their protection, &c.

A very large part of the Towns on the Grants west of Masons Line, and east of Connecticut River, are represented in the General Assembly of New Hampshire, and consequently they are Represented in Congress: therefore they cannot withdraw from New Hampshire, and connect with any other body politick, and present themselves to Congress to be taken into Confederation with

the

the United States, for they are already taken into Confederation by the way of New Hampshire — The way them Towns could act where they to send members to said convention, would be to act on the latter clause of the Warrent, which is to claim the antient Jurisdiction of the Government of New Hampshire, and in that way to defend ourselves against the pretended right of Jurisdiction of any other State, and thereby become one entire State according to the extent of the New Hampshire Province as it stood before the Decree in 1764. took place — but whether that is the design of the convention or not I leave the candid reader to determine.

I appeal to every person's own concience in the State of Vermont, whether, when the inhabitants on the west and east sides of the Green Mountains, first connected together to become one body politick, they did it under a view that the Grants east of Connecticut River would join them, and if it had not been for that, they would not have joined in said plan.

All those that did unite together in one body politicks to form a State west of Connecticut River will, I doubt not, on due consideration, pursue that desirable object; (if any difficulties should arise so as unhappily to seperate those Towns ~~from~~ east of Connecticut River from this State) for in that view of the case we should then enjoy all we first

expected; and as the Constitution of this State is so happily calculated to preserve inviolable the rights of the people; and as in it there is ample provision made for the propogation of the gospel, together with proper Seminaries and Schools of learning which are among the greatest blessings God in his wisdom ever bestowed on the fallen race of man.

By what has been already elucidated, it appears that the State of Vermont is in favour with the United States of America; therefore, if the people in the said State are, and continue steadfast to maintain the same, they will without doubt support the Independence of said State, as long as the United States do theirs

Since the choice appears to be in the breasts of the good people of this State whether they will be governed by the agreeable Constitution they have made, or lay that aside and seek for connections with a neighbouring State, which is some in debt, and whose known plan of representation is by numbers, so that it take five or six of our new Towns to send one member, and when we consider that those infant plantations have gone thro' numberless fatigues and expences to defend their just rights from the arbitrary power of New York; and since this present contest we have been a frontier to three neighbouring States, our inhabitants have been obliged to flee before their enemy, our Soldiery often called forth by alarums, who have

have fought and bled nobly in the field for the defence of their country — Is there not a much greater probability that we should be considered for those extraordinary difficulties, by the Honorable, the Grand Council of America, in defraying the expences of this unnatural War, than by the legislature of any State whose private interest would be nearer connected with ours

I doubt not ~~that~~ but every reasonable person will, on due deliberation determine that it is best, wisest, and cheapest for the good people of this State, to steadily persue their plan of government, which will transmit to posterity the blessings of a free State.

I am, Gentlemen, with due respect,
your Most Obedient,
Humble Servant,
Ira Allen

Dresden, November 27th 1778

N.B. The Laws of the State is come to hand, and will be ready for Sale in a short time

237:43

Extract from the Minutes of a Convention held at Cornish, December 9th 1778.

Voted, First, that the Members of this Convention will unite together for the purpose of pursuing such legal & regular measures as may have a tendency to secure to ourselves the benefit of Government without any regard to the distinction made by the arbitrary line drawn on the western bank of Connecticut River by the King in Council in the year 1764.

2nd A major part of the Committee appointed to draw at large a Declaration prepard in the report of a Committee of Assembly of Vermont on the 19th Octo. last laid before this Convention a pamphlet drawn by them in persuance of said appointment which was repeatedly read and unanimously approved —

Whereupon Voted, That 1500 of the above mentioned Pamphlets be printed and transmitted to Congress and other States of and to all the towns on the New Hampshire grants agreeable to Report.

3d Whereas notwithstanding the aforementioned request for this Convention but few of those towns whose members continued to act with said Assembly after the protesting members had withdrawn have sent Members to this Convention and the conduct of the Assembly in passing the Votes and Resolves contained in their printed Journals the protest remarks &c have rendered it impracticable to carry said resolves into execution by said Assembly as therein proposed which difficulty will continue so long as said

votes

votes stand in force — and the people in the towns by justifying the conduct of the Assembly in violating the Constitution will thereby dissolve the solemn compact which the entered into by the confederation and the people consequently become discharged from their oaths of allegiance. — Therefore Voted, That the following proposals be made to New Hampshire in pursuance of said resolves

1st To agree upon and settle a dividing line between New Hampshire and the grants by committees from each party or otherwise as they may mutually agree

2d If that is not complyed with that the whole dispute with New-Hampshire be submitted to the decision of Congress in such way and manner as Congress and the parties may agree, always providing the Grants be allowed equal privileges in espousing and conducting their cause in the trial with the other party, or

3d That we will agree with them mutually to appoint and constitute a Court of disinterested judicious men of the three New England States for the purpos of hearing and determining the dispute.

If neither of the forgoing ways can effect the settling of the controversy in case New Hampshire and we can agree upon a plan of Government we will consent that the whole of the Grants connect with N Hampshire and become with them on entire State as it was limited and bounded before the settling of said line in 1764. 246 And until one or the

other of the foregoing proposals be complied with we shall endeavour to defend ourselves in every lawfull way and trust our cause with the all wise Governing Providence to succeed us. And that the inhabitants of those towns on the Grants in the State of Vermont who have not sent a representative to the Convention and whose Members joined with the majority of said Assembly in passing said votes be requested to direct their members to recind the same and join in said proposals.

4th That all the other towns on said Grants be requested to join us in making the forgoing proposals to New Hampshire and that those towns agree to join us therein to be requested to transmit copies of their votes to Governor Marsh Mr. Woodward Col. Mercy Majr Childs Colo. Payne and Genl Bailey a committee appointed by this Convention for receiving them and carrying the forgoing votes ~~into~~ and proceedings into execution so soon as the Towns on the Grants can have opportunity to join us therein.

5th In case those towns whose Members continued to act with the Assembly of Vermont still remain firm and steadfast in supporting & and continuing the votes of the Assembly which are complained of as Unconstitutional and neglect to join us in carrying into execution said report their committee we shall make overtures to join New Hampshire on the last article in said Proposals.

6th That said Committee be empowered to call a Convention from the towns on the Grants whenever any thing shall arise which shall in their opinion render one necessary

237:45

Windsor December 12th 1778

Hond Sir,

As I wish to do nothing that concerns a neighbouring State but what should be there made known I therefore herewith enclose to you my printed letter to the inhabitants of this State as also an extract of the procedures of a Convention called at the request of those gentlemen that withdrew from the Council and Assembly of Vermont at their session in October last said Convention was held at Cornish on the 9th day of Instant Decem— As I providentially happened at said Convention and as I have been conversant with the principle Men in most of the towns between this & Coos shall make a few observations on the present confus'd state of affairs in these parts.

There was eight towns represented in said Convention from the west side of the River and probably two or three more may join them but in most if not all of said towns there is a large minority in opposition to such procedure

In the sixteen towns s'd to be in union with this State since the break in the Assembly in October last the party that was in favour of New Hampshire have considerably increased

Within the disaffected towns on both sides of the River are several gentlemen whose design is to break up this State and connect the whole to New Hampshire for the sole purpose of bringing the

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this seat of Government on Connecticut River at or near the College and to establish a plan of government similer to Vermont.

There is no authority exercised east of Connecticut River by this State and I dare engage at the risque of my reputation as a man of honour or common sense that the future General Assembly of this State will not countenance an encroachment on the State of New Hampshire.

In the year 1764 by an arbitrary act of the Crown the grents west of the River was put under the jurisdiction of New York where the inhabitants have since experienced all the evils that a Golden Dunmore and Tryon together with a clan of New York land-jobbers could invent and inflict in the course of which troubles (as I am informed) application was made to New Hampshire to assert their claim which was refused.

The inhabitants on the west side of the Green Mountains boldly asserted their rights and defended their property until the late Revolution soon after which overtures was made to the inhabitants of the then Counties of Cumberland and Gloucester who had in some degree submitted to the arbitrary power of New York and had then Members in the Provincial Congress of said State after many persuasive arguments the inhabitants in said Counties connected with those on the West side of the Green Mountains to form a

State and proceed to form a Constitution &C.

Had it not been for that the inhabitants of this State would by their own consent been effectually bound to New York by connecting with them in forming a Constitution &. Had that been the case no one would have been so hardy as to have thought of claiming the ancient jurisdiction of New Hampshire nor even New Hampshire of claiming the now State of Vermont any more than the Massachusetts Bay the southerly part of said State. — but it seems a few restless uneasy men not having the good of either of the States at Heart / but their own private interest and emolument) are about to claim the ancient jurisdiction of New Hampshire — Should that be the case doubt not but they will meet with such treatment as to Justice may appertain

I am Honr'd Sir, with due
Respect Your most obedient
Humble Servant
Ira Allen

The Honourable
Meshech Weare Esqr.